

## Message Text

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51

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

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NEA/ GRK: GTCHURCHILL

NEA: RPDAVIES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E. O. 11652; N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SOROKOS CALL ON SECRETARY

REF: ATHENS 3545; ATHENS 3552

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR SOROKOS PAID BRIEF CALL ON SECRETARY  
JUNE 4 TO DELIVER NOTE WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS " FORMAL  
NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN FORM OF GREEK GOVERNMENT".

AS PART OF FORMALITY NOT COVERED IN NOTE, HE INDICATED  
HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED HIS OWN ACCREDITATION CON-  
TINUING UNINTERRUPTED.

2. AFTER READING NOTE SECRETARY ASKED IF REFERENCE TO  
" CONSTITUTIONAL ACT" IN SECOND PARAGRAPH MEANT THAT THERE  
WAS PROVISION IN PRESENT CONSTITUTION UNDER WHICH CHANGE  
ANNOUNCED BY GOG ON JUNE 1 WAS PERMITTED. DESK OFFICER  
INTERJECTED THAT 1968 CONSTITUTION FORBADE IN PERPETUITY  
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ANY CHANGE IN FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND PROHIBITED ANY AMENDMENT OTHER PROVISIONS DURING FIRST TEN YEARS OF CONSTITUTION' S EXISTENCE.

3. SOROKOS ASSERTED JUNE 1 ACTION TAKEN IN CONTEXT " REVOLUTION" NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY PROVISION OF CONSTITUTION. " SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO RESTORE NORMALITY IN GREECE. THIS WAS THE FIRST STEP."

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE:

" THE AMBASSADOR OF GREECE PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM HIM OF THE FOLLOWING:

" BY A CONSTITUTIONAL ACT OF JUNE 1, 1973 THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS ESTABLISHED IN GREECE THE REGIME OF PRESIDENTIAL PARLIAMENTARY REPUBLIC. IT HAS ABOLISHED THE MONARCHY AND HAS PROCLAIMED THE KING AND HIS HEIRS DEPOSED. THE PRIME MINISTER AND HEAD OF THE REVOLUTION OF APRIL 21, 1967, GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. HE ASSUMED AT THE SAME TIME THE DUTIES OF PRIME MINISTER.

" BY AN ACT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30, 1973, A DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL DECREE OF THE AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NOVEMBER 15 TH, 1968, WILL BE PREPARED AND PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE. A REFERENDUM WILL TAKE PLACE IN THIS RESPECT NOT LATER THAN JULY 29, 1973. THE EXACT DATE OF THE REFERENDUM AND ALL RELEVANT DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR BY A LEGISLATIVE DECREE.

" THE CONSTITUTIONAL FUNCTIONS OF THE KING WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. THE EMBLEM OF THE GREEK STATE WILL BE THE PHOENIX REBORN FROM ITS ASHES. UNTIL THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE

DECREE PROVIDED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL ACT OF JUNE 1, 1973, ALL PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, NOT CONTRARY TO THE ABOVE CONSTITUTIONAL ACT WILL REMAIN IN FORCE.  
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" THE AMBASSADOR OF GREECE AVAILS HIMSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF HIS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION." RUSH

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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